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November Meeting

The November regular member meeting will take place on Tuesday, November 29. Jim Francis DNR Fisheries Management Biologist will be our speaker this month. He will talk about the Steelhead in the Clinton River, and the Clinton River Assessment.

Elections take place in December. There are several positions up for election for the Board of Directors. See a Director if you are interested in running.

As always, the general meeting takes place at 7:30 P.M. in the hall at 6177 Chicago Rd. (east of Mound Rd., North of 13 Mile Rd.)- Warren,

Raffle report for September and October 2005

I have been neglecting my duties, here I missed the September deadline and may even be in trouble to meet the November newsletter, but here goes. The September meeting saw the club raffle off a

spotlight, filet knife set, 2 river tackle packs, ice pack bags and a folding camper chair for the tackle raffles plus a 10'6" steelhead river rod as the 50/50 bonus draw. The October meeting brought similar prizes, a spot light, 2 filet knife sets with ice bags, a club sweatshirt, 2 river tackle packs for the tackle raffle and again another 10'6" steelhead rod was given away for the 50/50 bonus draw.

Member Dave Stachnik won \$90.00 cash in the 50/50 drawing while one of our new members; Dan Chisom won the steelhead rod in the 50/50 bonus drawing during the September meeting. October brought us a familiar face to the 50/50 winner's circle, our very own coffee man Jimmy Lee walked away with cool \$80.00 cash. Matt Pal, crew member for team Luck Strike walked away with the second drawing prize of the steelhead rod. Congratulations to all of you.

We will continue with the bonus 50/50 drawing for the time being. As long as there is interest we will keep it going. The prize value will vary month to month, but expect retail value to be approximately \$50.00.

R. Robb had his name pulled as the recipient of the \$60.00 September membership raffle. However, Mr., Robb was

not at the August meeting so the \$60.00 went back in the cookie jar where it increased to \$70.00 for the October raffle. Our very own DAS Director; Bob Mitchell won the \$70.00 membership drawing for October. The pot will go back to \$30.00 for the November meeting.

Thanks to Jason Adam for collecting the funds for the September tackle raffle and to Dwayne Welder for handling the October 50/50.

Remember, you can't win if you don't play, and you can't play if you are not present for the meetings.

Sincerely,
Bob Jones
"Bobby's Toy"
Raffle Chairman



2005/06 Key Dates

Nov. 29 - Member Meeting

Dec. 20 - Christmas Party

March 11 - Sportsman's
Game Dinner

**November 5, 2005
Manistee River
Tournament:**

Mother Nature provided some beautiful autumn

weather for the Manistee River outing on November 5. The temperatures were in the 40's - 50's, with partly sunny skies and gentle breezes. The water level in the river was very low, and fishing reports were indicating that few steelhead were being caught.

Fishing started at daybreak on Saturday. The action was slow, but the "Wish-Full II" (Capt. Jerry Zabel, and Bob Feisel) managed to find some fresh steelhead in the lower stretch of the river around the M55 bridge, and finished the day 2/4. Both fish boated were hatchery fish, 9 lb male and 7 lb female, and were caught with Willies Worms.

Actually, the "Wish-Full II" caught a bonus "fish", a two inch gobie minnow that attacked a gob of spawn and got an egg stuck in his mouth. He was too small to swallow the egg, and couldn't spit it out. We left him attached to the bait as an extra "attractor". (Didn't help though.)

The weather changed dramatically on Saturday evening, with thunderstorms and very high winds. The wind and rain continued all night and Sunday morning. Nobody fished the river on Sunday morning, but the rain was welcomed because the increased water flow in the river is sure to bring in a fresh run of fish.



Jerry Zabel & Bob Feisel



Secrets of a Steelhead Pool

by Barry M. Thornton

The steelhead pool was long and wide much like any pool found in a fast flowing West Coast river. It could best be described as a full pool with a slot at the tail-out where it poured over a lip into a long falling whitewater channel. Yes, this was a typical steelhead pool of a West Coast river but this one had many additional elements that made it a perfect example for describing some of those secret steelhead slots.

But, before we look at these pool secrets we must look at *Oncorhynchus mykiss*, the anadromous rainbow trout that we call a steelhead. When steelhead return to their home river they come with only one purpose--to spawn. The river is a strange and fearful aquatic environment after the freedom of their two- to five-year ocean odyssey. It is speculated that there are some memories of their nursery years in the stream, judging from their habit of ingesting roe and their search for their home pool. But they no longer feed and instead search for those secret pool locations where they can rest on their upstream journey. These secret locations provide a sensitive light level, have a moderate current with few roiling or side swaying waters, and are always near shelter in the form of deep water or overhanging flora. It is important to realize that homebound steelhead do not search for feeding locations, but rather look and feel for resting slots, and in this behavior they are predictable for the steelheader.

The "Instream Ledge"

This is a natural dropoff, a deepwater run where steelhead hold like glue. The ledge allows the resting fish to experience that personal light factor that all steelhead require, and it holds a deepwater depression that they could drop into should they feel threatened for any reason. The "instream ledge" is one of those secret steelhead-holding slots that many years of experience has taught me to look for. I have found that they can be formed by a rock or clay shelf, by a natural depression in the stream's water hydrology, or by a shelf of upturned gravel.

We had been fly fishing the pool all morning and various nips, takes, and running fish kept us searching for the steelhead that obviously liked this particular pool. When I was halfway down the pool (I had started at the shallow white water at the head of the pool and worked my way downstream using the 3X3X3 system) I saw the distinct darker water color. It appeared like a straight line pointing upstream and downstream, revealing a ledge with deeper water in front of me. The water was a color that I have often seen in many pools, a deep green bordering clear or opaque shallows. I cast upstream about 60 degrees and let my Mastery wet tip fly line sink then caress the ledge as the fly draped over into the deeper water. I knew it was the perfect steelhead slot when I felt an exceptional 20-pound buck take on the first drift!

Logs and Other Cover

Downstream a massive fallen Douglas fir rested on the riverbank with its trunk laying half in and half out of the pool pointing at a 60-degree angle. It was obvious that high waters and powerful debris had knocked down the monarch, laying it in the pool some years earlier. Winter floods had dug out the gravel under and downstream from the trunk creating a deeper section, which was perfect cover for steelhead. On a previous snorkel swim I had searched this specific location and found a number of mature salmon, steelhead and fry hugging the surface just below the trunk. Beavers had stripped the trunk of branches and this allowed anglers to cast their tackle beside and immediately under the trunk.

Boulders

Most pools have numerous boulders situated in various locations that are too large for the current to move. But, water hydrology from the fast flowing water eventually digs out the gravel from around the rock creating a deep-water pocket all around the boulder. Downstream from the rock, the flowing currents from both sides meet and create a positive zone where the current is stable--a specific zone which traveling steelhead prefer. This positive zone is readable on the stream surface by a steady surface slick. This pool was no exception and because it was so large there were a number of boulders with holding slicks. The previous day, I also had a steelhead take just ahead of the boulder, just where the depression begins. The accelerating current creates this depression as it spreads to pass the boulder, producing another secret steelhead lie.

The "U Pool"

The steelhead pool upstream on this particular trip was a perfect giveaway for another steelhead holding secret. Rather than a broad pool, this pool was more of a slot, a section of fast moving stream water of almost equal distance from either bank at the head and the tailout, but obviously deep water throughout. This was the classic 'U' steelhead run, a pool where the beach from both banks slopes down to meet in a depression in the middle of the stream, the bend of the U. The steelhead we hooked in this pool were not scattered throughout, rather, they held at the tailout of this pool, the area where the water began to shallow out and where light began to penetrate the deep water. Naturally, if the water was more colored the fish would have held higher in the tailout and

conversely, as the water cleared they would hold in the deeper waters of the tailout.

Our trip was successful because we did not shotgun the pools with our casts. The common holding slots provided us with much action and the secret slots produced many more fish. Read the water carefully the next time you go steelheading. It is amazing how many pool locations are similar in all rivers and there are always those secret slots just waiting to be found.

Jerry Zabel on the Manistee



Christmas Gifts?

Thinking about Christmas Gifts? How about DAS Shirts, Hats and Jackets.

Hats are only \$12.00. Polo shirts (tan color) with small DAS logo start at \$21.00. Sweatshirts crew with small DAS logo start at \$22.00. Sweatshirts collar with small DAS logo start at \$33.00. Sweatshirts hooded with small DAS logo start at \$33.00. Sweatshirts hooded 1/4 zipper with small DAS logo start at \$37.00. Sweatshirts hooded (full zipper) with small DAS logo start at \$37.00

All sweatshirts are Navy Blue color.

Jackets are Spring/Fall with large DAS logo on back and start at \$68.00. Jackets -winter (flees lined) with large DAS logo on back start at \$80.00.

Payment in full is required upon ordering. See Ty Voigt

COOLER OF CHEER!

The Annual Christmas Cooler of Cheer is in full swing. The support of all of our members and friends has really made this a fun event. The lucky winning ticket will be drawn at the annual Christmas meeting on Dec. 20.

The lucky winner will receive a **100-quart cooler full of cheer, a big assortment of party snacks and \$100 in cash;** a prize well worth the one buck investment.

A special drawing for sellers will take place at the November meeting where anyone turning in a \$20.00 will be entered into a drawing for a \$25.00 gift certificate. If you haven't sold your tickets by then, you can mail your money or turn it in at the meeting. Sell your tickets later and turn in the stubs at a later time.

Finally, the overall top ticket seller will win a \$100 gift certificate. I have plenty of extra tickets for everyone who needs extra tickets. Please feel free to call me or see me at the meetings.

Chris Nytko
Home: (586) 786-0288

Pager(586) 609-6208

Check Your Label

Did you know that your mailing label includes the date your membership expires? The month and year your membership expires is below your name. If it's marked yellow, your membership may be close to expiring. Don't be disqualified from a tournament because you forgot to re-up. Regular memberships are still \$25, Senior \$10 and Lifetime \$150.

See Tom Moores at the regular meeting or send your check to the club post office box (1255 in Sterling Heights Mi. 48311-1255).



Palomar Knot – 100% knot that's easy to tie

